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## THE SHEEP-KILLING DOG.

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### INTRODUCTORY.

The continued high prices of mutton and lamb have made it desirable that more sheep be kept on the farms of the United States. The excessive area of rough pasture land, weedy lots, and grown-up fence rows affords an excellent opportunity for feeding sheep, which should be used in cleaning up and maintaining the productivity of all such lands. Compared with the United Kingdom, where there is one sheep or lamb for each 2.5 acres of the total land area, in the 37 farm States of the United States, not included in the western division, there is only one sheep or lamb for each 31.8 acres of land in farms. The British farmer handles his land on an intensive farming basis, and forage-crop pasturages have been highly developed. In that country the special advantage of this system of pasturage for sheep is generally recognized.

Forage-crop pastures not only augment intensified farming and increase the fertility of the land, but also free the sheep from many internal parasites contracted through grazing upon permanent pastures. Of such parasites stomach worms are most prevalent and disastrous with young stock. Methods of preventing infection through the use of a succession of forage-crop pastures are understood and successfully followed by many farmers. In flocks handled under such conditions lambs born in the late winter or early spring are kept free from infection and finished for the market by the latter part of June or the 1st of July, at which time market prices are generally highest. It is essential that the American farmer recognize

the small flock of sheep, handled under forage-crop conditions, as a factor in the economic handling of high-priced farm lands.

As compared with the census of 1900, that of 1910 shows an increased valuation of 20 per cent, or approximately \$19,000,000, in the total value of sheep in the United States, exclusive of the western division. Notwithstanding this marked increase in value, there was a decrease in numbers of 14 per cent, or over 3,900,000 head, for the same period of time. It seems that an industry so favored by market conditions and so well adapted to the area in question should flourish rather than decline.

#### **DOGS THE MAIN CAUSE OF DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SHEEP.**

Sheep-killing dogs are not only recognized as the worst enemy of eastern flockmasters at the present time, but are known to be the principal cause of so marked a decrease in the numbers of sheep kept on farms. The moral effect upon all persons who have seen sheep killed, injured, or frightened by dogs is far more destructive to the industry than the actual damage sustained. No farmer contemplating the raising of sheep is likely to venture on the enterprise while the flocks of his neighbors are continually meeting reverses through the attacks of dogs, as the ultimate financial losses following such reverses are incalculable. Dog depredations to flocks are not only disheartening and discouraging to the flockmaster, but they also break up breeding plans and render flocks restless and non-productive. The following extract from a letter published in an eastern farm paper<sup>1</sup> is indicative of the fact that sheep owners are finally forced out of the business if attacks by dogs are long continued. It also expresses the general sentiment of sheep-owning farmers toward dogs.

We have grown faint-hearted and joined the ranks of the sheepless. Only a few days ago the last of the sheep were driven off the farm. I watched those old Merino ewes and their foldy necked lambs walk down the road and out of sight and a lump came in my throat and the tears were not very far back.

Now these ewes, the remnant of the flock, are gone. Because we have lost interest? No; far from it. I would walk farther to see a good Merino than any other animal. Do we think tariff changes have permanently knocked the industry into a cocked hat? No; not that. We think the future is bright, and the golden hoof will be worth as much, perhaps more, as a woolgrower as in years just past, and we are planning to have the Merino again in the barn and pasture. The one reason for present abandonment would be shouted by thousands of shepherds if the question were put—just dogs! Old stuff? Yes; but it's ever new to the sheepman of eastern Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, and to flock owners everywhere. The man who has walked out to his pasture to find dead, torn, bleeding, crippled, and scared sheep will appreciate what I say.

Reclaim [a farm in Ohio] is bounded on two sides by small towns with a dog population of 200; 1 mile away on another side is another town, 2 miles away on the remaining side still another town, both with more dogs than people. We have found our sheep

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<sup>1</sup> National Stockman and Farmer, July 18, 1914.

dead, found them with throats cut and legs torn off, found them huddled together in the farthest corner, found them scared out on the the public highway, in our neighbor's fields, and 4 miles from home. The foreigner's dog has chased them. The neighbor's dog has chased them. Dogs of all kinds seen and unseen have had a whack at our Merinos. "Why don't you shoot them?" "Why don't you keep your sheep near the barn?" "I'd poison the whole dog tribe," and many like remarks are made by folks who don't know. You who have had experience know that it's no small task to bring the sheep to the barn at early dusk every night and to make frequent visits to the pasture by day or keep a musket strapped to your back or standing in a handy fence corner while in the field and at the head of the bed at night. It's unlawful to scatter poison, and not altogether safe. \* \* \*

We read and write and legislate, debate and discuss, quarantine and inspect to stamp out tuberculosis in cattle. Likewise do we agitate over hog cholera and horse glanders. Our trees and plants are inspected, and we insist on investigations and regulations and the stamping out of various things. All this is good. But the dog that has



FIG. 1.—Sheep killed by dogs. Part of a flock of 192 head in Calhoun County, Mich., that were killed in one night by the attack of two dogs. Few of these sheep were bitten or maimed; they were simply run to death. (Illustration used by courtesy of the Breeder's Gazette.)

done more to ruin an industry to which many men owe all they possess goes marching on uncontrolled and uninvestigated, throttling our choicest breeding ewes, chasing the calves, rushing through the hen yard and hog lot, carrying hog cholera on his feet, carrying stomach worms and parasites internal and external, spreading rabies, tramping over flower bed or back porch, practically unrestrained, enjoying undisputed rights, and all for what? Where is the man who can tell what great or good thing the dog family has done to merit all this? Why is it that dog laws are nearer dead letters than anything else on the statute books? \* \* \*

The dog owner always comes back like this: "My dog won't chase sheep." Oh, false or deluded man! The dog does not live with such good blood in his veins but what will develop into a sheep killer if given an opportunity. I have seen too many pairs composed of one mongrel and one pedigreed cur crossing the farm together to

have faith in dogdom. We're hoping that the sheep and wool conference at Washington will be the beginning of great things for sheep husbandry. The dog was discussed, but no remedy prescribed. It's a sorry fact that custom has so overridden the law that the dog is still on top regardless of dog laws.

#### **THE HABITS OF THE SHEEP-KILLING DOG.**

Sheep-killing dogs work both singly and in groups, but usually in twos or threes. They do not limit their attacks to the flocks of the immediate vicinity in which they are kept, but travel for miles in all directions, spreading destruction in the flocks with which they come in contact. Because their work is so often done under the cover of darkness it is almost impossible to catch them in the act of worrying the sheep, and hence they can seldom be positively identified.

The ways in which different dogs attack and destroy sheep vary greatly. Some dogs simply kill one or two sheep in a flock, while others continue the attack until all the sheep are either destroyed or crippled. In many cases where large numbers are killed they are neither bitten nor wounded, but simply chased until they die from exhaustion.

After a dog has once formed the habit of killing sheep, it seemingly becomes a mania with him, and he is seldom, if ever, broken of it. He not only destroys sheep himself, but leads other dogs to the work. No consideration should be given such dogs; if additional losses to flocks from this source are to be avoided, they should be dispatched as soon as their habits are known.

#### **ESTIMATED ANNUAL NUMBER OF SHEEP KILLED BY DOGS.**

That dogs are a real hindrance to the sheep industry is not only acclaimed by the testimony of thousands of sheep owners whose flocks have suffered through ravages by them, but is verified by figures showing a conservative estimate of the partial loss incurred by flockowners during the year 1913. These figures, given in Table I, were compiled from the reports of county treasurers of different States, giving the number of sheep killed by dogs and paid for by the several counties during the year. Not all counties or States reported these losses, as in many cases no law existed which empowered the county to pay for sheep killed; for this reason it was necessary to compute the total loss on a percentage basis.

TABLE I.—*Estimated loss of sheep in farm States incurred by dogs during 1913.*

State.	Counties.		Number of sheep in counties reporting (census, 1910).	Number of sheep paid for in 1913.	Total sheep killed in State at same ratio.
	Total number.	Number reporting.			
Illinois.....	102	72	809,274	1,347	1,920
Indiana.....	92	25	314,539	3,045	12,749
Iowa.....	99	76	877,039	8,026	11,429
Kentucky.....	120	68	793,615	4,015	6,676
Maryland.....	23	3	21,792	231	2,384
Massachusetts.....	14	11	23,037	258	381
Nebraska.....	93	40	112,506	45	153
New Hampshire.....	10	2	8,110	56	290
New York.....	62	10	180,261	298	1,446
Ohio.....	88	51	2,123,324	9,619	15,561
Pennsylvania.....	67	43	501,131	3,125	5,396
Tennessee.....	96	25	272,627	100	266
Vermont.....	14	2	15,794	56	415
Virginia.....	100	56	494,799	2,873	4,355
West Virginia.....	55	18	289,094	1,589	4,513
Total.....	1,035	502	6,836,942	34,683	67,934

Twenty-one farm States not shown in the above table have 7,851,000 sheep. At the same average rate of loss these 21 States would lose annually 39,826 sheep, making a total annual loss for 36 farm States of 107,760 sheep.

While the estimated annual loss in numbers of sheep killed by dogs shown in the table is seemingly small, in that it is less than 1 per cent of the total number of sheep in the farm States, it should be remembered that a 1 per cent loss on a business that is being conducted on a 5 or 6 per cent profit basis is serious and clearly cuts the average profits of all engaged in the industry by one-fifth or one-sixth of the total that should be received. But the actual loss incurred is undoubtedly far greater than is here given, as this partial loss is estimated only upon sheep reported as killed and paid for by counties; it is known that there are many killed which are not reported. Then, too, this estimate does not take into consideration the retardation in the development of the industry suffered through prospective sheep men being kept out of it on account of the dog problem. As has been previously stated, the ultimate losses from sources of this nature can not be estimated.

#### THE POSSIBLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SHEEP.

Through a summary of the replies received from crop correspondents in the 36 farm States regarding sheep, it is estimated that the present number of sheep in these States can be increased by 150 per cent without displacing other live stock on farms. This summary, given in detail in Table II, also shows that sheep raising is considered profitable by a majority of the correspondents in most of the States and that dogs are the main barrier to keeping them.

TABLE II.—*Summary of replies from crop correspondents showing estimated possible increase in number of sheep on farms without displacing other stock and causes preventing such increase.*

State.	Is sheep raising profitable?		Average estimated possible increase in number of sheep.	Causes preventing increase.	
	Yes.	No.		Dogs.	Other causes.
			<i>Per cent.</i>		
Alabama.....	7	23	100.3	15	3
Arkansas.....	25	17	117.2	15	3
Connecticut.....	3	2	377.0	3	2
Delaware.....	2	1	80.0	2	1
Florida.....	14	5	192.7	8	1
Georgia.....	22	41	128.2	36	9
Illinois.....	43	28	90.3	17	23
Indiana.....	42	21	77.6	28	22
Iowa.....	47	11	125.4	12	22
Kansas.....	35	22	196.0	6	20
Kentucky.....	76	21	73.9	49	7
Louisiana.....	19	11	175.0	20	.....
Maine.....	8	6	150.0	10	5
Maryland.....	11	3	57.3	7	5
Massachusetts.....	3	6	125.0	5	2
Michigan.....	35	15	122.4	8	18
Minnesota.....	32	20	129.2	5	21
Mississippi.....	31	22	118.6	30	4
Missouri.....	62	15	141.4	30	23
Nebraska.....	20	15	246.8	4	13
New Hampshire.....	3	.....	357.0	4	1
New Jersey.....	3	7	175.0	3	2
New York.....	27	16	98.8	17	16
North Carolina.....	27	35	116.0	28	7
North Dakota.....	22	8	201.9	.....	10
Ohio.....	30	39	39.9	29	38
Oklahoma.....	10	14	285.9	7	.....
Pennsylvania.....	16	16	110.7	14	17
Rhode Island.....	2	.....	270.0	1	.....
South Carolina.....	3	22	208.1	11	1
South Dakota.....	29	5	111.5	3	12
Tennessee.....	50	13	156.5	35	5
Vermont.....	4	5	180.0	5	3
Virginia.....	63	16	127.3	39	17
West Virginia.....	35	5	88.7	22	9
Wisconsin.....	26	18	80.5	3	21
Total.....	887	524	150.8	531	363

An increase of 150 per cent in the sheep of the States not included in the western division would increase the total number of sheep in this country by approximately 33,681,000 head. As computed from the average farm price per head of sheep in the sections considered, for the year 1914, such an increase in number would bring about a corresponding increase in value of \$144,267,000. It is believed by some who have made a study of the question that an increase of even 500 per cent need not seriously interfere with the keeping of other live stock now on farms.

The desirability of a maximum increase in the number of sheep is generally admitted. Probably the most logical method of bringing about such a condition would be through assuring the sheepman that his flock would be protected from dogs. This problem of protection, though seemingly great, should not be insurmountable.

**HOW DOG LOVERS CAN AID.**

Owing to his many acts of faithfulness and devotion, the dog rightfully holds a strong place in the minds and affections of men. This fact must be reckoned with in any attempt to ameliorate the injury done by the animals having the bad characters of the dog family. It sometimes happens that the dog most highly esteemed is also one that kills and worries the most sheep and is most cunning in obscuring the evidences of his clandestine prowlings. Because of the economic loss occasioned by sheep-killing dogs, and because of such dogs bringing the whole of their kind into bad repute, it is necessary that the true admirers and friends of this animal should help to further any steps likely to result in the limitation of the activity of these discrediting members of a noble race. One of the most practical methods of accomplishing this result seems to be to place upon dogs such a tax as will reduce the number of superfluous dogs and result in fewer dogs being kept by persons who can not or will not give them the attention necessary to prevent the formation of habits and associations that lead to sheep killing.

**PRESENT DOG LAWS INEFFECTIVE.**

With few exceptions the present State dog laws are ineffective and fail in their purpose either to protect the flocks or to compensate the owners for sheep when killed. It is very true that in some instances State laws are adequate and would afford protection if enforced; but in the past it has been almost if not wholly impossible to enforce them.

The following general discussion of those phases in the present dog laws of the farm States which should aid in the solution of the dog problem as related to the sheep industry will suffice to give an idea of the text of such laws and to show the general disregard in which they are held.

**DISCUSSION OF STATE DOG LAWS AFFECTING FARM SHEEP.****LEVYING AND COLLECTION OF DOG TAXES.**

Few of the States levy dog taxes directly through their legislatures. Usually counties and incorporated villages or cities are empowered to tax dogs at their discretion. Consequently the annual tax now levied varies not only in different States but in different sections of the same State, the amount running from 50 cents to \$5.15 per capita. In most cases unspayed females carry heavier taxes than either males or spayed females. Individuals keeping more than one dog are generally required to pay a tax above the regular amount for each additional dog, except in cases where kennel licenses are granted. These latter licenses provide for taxes of from \$25 to \$50, according to the number of dogs in the kennel.



Apparently there is no general method being used by most of the States in collecting dog taxes. As this is a vital point in the enforcement of dog laws, it is important that the best method of procedure should be worked out and then used by all of the States. Seemingly those States most successful in collecting dog taxes in the past have been those assessing dogs along with other property and then collecting the tax as a personal one. Even through this system many dogs are not listed with the assessor, and thus taxation is avoided by their owners. Another method of collecting taxes imposed consists in having dog owners present their dogs to stipulated officials for registry and taxation. The success of the practical application of this system is dependent upon the attitude of the public toward the enforcement of dog laws.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF LICENSED DOGS.

It is not required by all of the States that licensed dogs be identified. In those requiring it they are usually identified upon the registry books of the licensing office by a statement of the breed, sex, and age, and a description giving color markings, or brands, of individual dogs. To the public they are identified by a collar bearing a metal tag upon which is stamped the register number, date, and place of issue of licenses, and in some cases name and address of owner. A few of the States furnish such collars and tags to dog owners when the dog tax is paid. This policy is to be commended and should be more generally adopted, as it insures uniform marking for all dogs licensed.

#### DEALING WITH SHEEP-KILLING DOGS.

With few exceptions the laws empower anyone to kill dogs caught in the act of killing, chasing, or worrying sheep. Other conditions under which some of the States permit them to be killed by anyone are as follows:

1. When found at large unattended and without a collar bearing register number.
2. When found at large, after having been proved to be sheep killers.
3. When found at large and unattended, between sunset and sunrise, on a farm where sheep are kept.

In many of the States it is a misdemeanor to keep dogs after they are known to be sheep killers, and persons so doing render themselves liable to fine or imprisonment. Such dogs must either be disposed of or killed, and if their owners refuse the dogs may be ordered killed by an official.

At the 1914 session of the Virginia State legislature, supervisors of the different counties of that State were empowered to decree that the dogs of their particular county should not run at large if, in their opinion, such liberty would be detrimental to the best interest of the community. Should such action be generally taken it will become a

misdeemeanor for the owner of a dog to allow the same to leave his premises unattended, and for dogs taxed by incorporated villages or cities to leave the city limits under like conditions. If this law is applied and enforced the farm sheep industry can suffer no damage from dogs, and consequently losses from that source will be eliminated. It will be well to watch the effect of this law upon the future development of the sheep industry in the State of Virginia.

#### SOURCES OF COMPENSATION TO SHEEP OWNERS FOR SHEEP KILLED BY DOGS.

In 19 of the 36 farm States sheep owners are paid directly by the State, to the extent that the dog-tax funds permit, for the appraised value of sheep killed by dogs; but in 2 of the 36 such damages are allowed only in cases where owners of dogs doing damage can not be determined, or when damages can not be collected from owners when known. Of the 15 remaining States 2 offer no recourse whatever to the sheepman for collecting damages incurred by dog depredations, while the others hold dog owners responsible for damages, provided flockmasters can establish proof of dog ownership.

While to those not familiar with the workings of these laws it may seem that they assure protection to owners of farm sheep, to those who have studied them in their practical application it is known they do not fulfill the purpose for which they were enacted. Owing to the fact that dogs are seldom caught in the act of killing sheep, it is very difficult to determine their owners, and hence to hold the owners accountable for damage done, provided they are able to pay the same, which very often they are not. Even in those States where damages are paid directly from dog-tax funds, such funds are frequently insufficient to allow full reimbursement for the appraised value of the sheep, and only pro-rata payments can be made. If States will take measures to increase such funds sufficiently to pay for all damages caused to flocks by dogs, and will allow full value for pedigreed stock destroyed, this method of reimbursement should prove most satisfactory and fair to sheep owners.

#### UNIFORM STATE DOG LAWS DESIRABLE.

Adequate methods of controlling losses to flocks by dogs are yet to be determined. It has been suggested by some that the dogs should be taxed out of existence, but it is not believed that a prohibitive tax is feasible or that the elimination of all dogs is desirable.

However, the first object of a law of this kind should be to protect farm flocks from damage by dogs rather than to make compensation after loss has been sustained. Well-enforced taxing provisions of State laws constitute the best means for restricting the number of dogs and consequent danger to sheep.

It is believed that similar laws for all States, so enacted and enforced as to prevent damage to flocks by controlling and limiting the number of dogs and at the same time allow the farmer greater leeway in protecting his flocks, will go far toward encouraging sheep raising and gradually bring about a logical increase in the number of sheep. With this in view an outline for a suggested dog law, combining parts of various State laws with some added features calculated to give the sheep owner the benefit in cases where proof of facts is difficult, has been prepared and is here presented. It is understood of course, that this is not a syllabus of a complete dog law that will fit conditions in all States; it is only hoped that it may contain suggestions that will be helpful in the preparation of future State dog laws.

#### OUTLINE FOR A SUGGESTED STATE DOG LAW.

##### TAXATION OF DOGS.

1. State to license and tax all dogs 6 months of age or over which are not licensed and taxed by cities or incorporated villages.
2. All licensed dogs to be taxed as follows:

One male.....	\$1. 50
Each additional male.....	3. 00
One female.....	3. 00
Each additional female.....	5. 00

Kennel licenses to be issued with restrictions. (Suggestions for such licenses may be obtained from the present kennel license law of the State of Connecticut.)

3. Counties or townships should be empowered to levy additional taxes on dogs should it be deemed necessary.

##### ISSUING LICENSE, PAYMENT OF TAX, AND IDENTIFICATION OF DOGS.

1. All dogs over 6 months of age to be reported by owner to proper county official for licensing. Owners shall also be responsible for relicensing dogs at end of each year.
2. All taxes to be paid by owner to proper county official at time of licensing.
3. All dogs to wear collar showing owner's name and to which is attached a metal tag bearing license number, date, and place of issue of license. Tags to be furnished by county official issuing license.

##### DEALING WITH STRAY OR SHEEP-KILLING DOGS.

1. A dog may be killed by anyone—
  - (a) When caught chasing or killing sheep.
  - (b) When caught off the owner's premises, unattended and on a farm where sheep are kept.
  - (c) When caught off the owner's premises, unattended and without a tag bearing license number.
2. A reward of \$15 to be offered by the proper county official to any one identifying a sheep-killing dog. (Money for payment or reward to be taken from funds accumulating from dog taxes.)
3. Dogs must be ordered killed by the authorized official when proved to be sheep killers.
4. Sheep owners to be allowed to lay dog poison on their farms by giving public notice of the fact.

**COMPENSATION TO SHEEP OWNER FOR SHEEP DAMAGED OR KILLED.**

1. Authorized county officials to pay owner of sheep damaged or killed the full value of damage done, from the funds accumulating from dog taxes. Should such funds be insufficient to pay all damages in full, a provision to be made making other funds available for this purpose. But should such funds accumulate in excess of the amount required to pay damages, a provision to be made making the same available for some public service after three years' time.

2. Counties should have power to proceed against owners of sheep-killing dogs to recover amounts paid out for damaged sheep.

**LAW PROPOSED BY LIVE-STOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.**

On December 2, 1914, a meeting of representatives of all live-stock breeders' associations was held in Chicago, to devise means of protecting sheep and other live stock from damage by dogs. As a result, a copy of a bill for submission to State legislatures was prepared. Copies of this bill are obtainable from Miss Julia M. Wade, secretary, American Shropshire Registry Association, Lafayette, Ind.

**ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ESSENTIAL.**

The guaranty of the State to pay for sheep destroyed or injured by dogs will aid in keeping those now engaged in the industry from leaving it, but will hardly encourage others to enter the field. If sheep raising is to be encouraged where it has now been partially abandoned on account of the dog, it is essential that the frequency of the attacks upon flocks be reduced to a minimum. The industry must be encouraged through affording protection to the flock rather than through paying for sheep destroyed. Such protection can be afforded only through strict and rigid enforcement of dog laws enacted. Action on the part of single individuals can not bring about the desired results; entire communities must work in cooperation with county or State officials for the protection of sheep. Undoubtedly such cooperation can be fostered by the States through publishing and giving State-wide distribution to dog laws. Ignorance of such laws as they exist is often accountable for the little attention given to them.

**THE USE OF DOG-PROOF FENCES TO PROTECT FLOCKS.**

Flockmasters need not dispose of their flocks because of the dog menace, even as it now exists. With the more general adoption of methods of intensive farming, the grazing of sheep upon comparatively small areas of land sown to forage crops instead of upon permanent pastures in larger fields is facilitated. Such a change in pasturage reduces the fenced area to a minimum and thus makes possible the building of dog-proof fences around the smaller fields.

The Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has had experience in the range States in fencing pasture for the purpose of protecting flocks from the attacks of coyotes. Forest Service

Circular 178, in which a report of these investigations is given, states that during the 3-month period through which observations were noted not a single coyote was known to enter the fenced pasture. Certainly a fence so designed as to turn a coyote would turn a dog, and there is no reason to believe the eastern farmer would not be justified in assuming that a properly constructed fence of this kind would protect his flock from dogs. The accompanying diagram illustrates a fence similar in detail to that used by the Forest Service in their western investigations; but if dogs are to be turned aside by this fence, it is absolutely essential that the bottom barbed wire be stretched flat on the surface of the ground at all points. If the ground over which the fence is to be built is uneven, proper construction can be facilitated by grading the ground before putting up the fence.

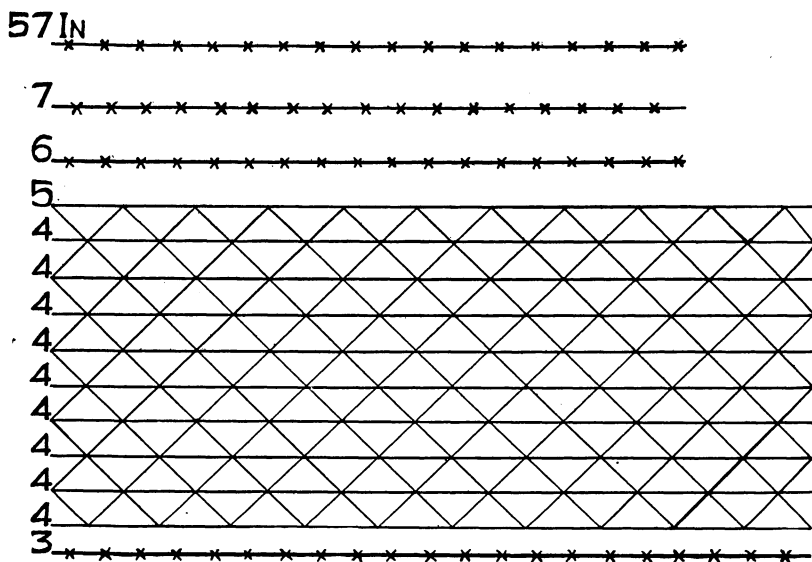


FIG. 2.—A dog-proof fence.

Small holes appearing after the wire is stretched can be filled in with dirt or other material.

#### Specifications for the dog-proof fence:

Posts  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length, set  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in the ground and 16 feet apart; a barbed wire stretched flat to the surface of the ground; 3 inches higher a 36-inch woven-wire fence having a 4-inch triangular mesh; 5 inches higher a barbed wire; 6 inches higher a second barbed wire; 7 inches above this a third barbed wire. Total height, 57 inches.

#### FENCING OF SMALL INCLOSURES FOR PROTECTION OF SMALL FLOCKS.

Many farmers having only a few head of sheep would not incur the expense of building dog-proof fences around their sheep pastures. In such cases small lots might be thus fenced and the sheep placed in

them at nights. As dogs generally make their attacks on flocks during darkness, the sheep can be turned on the open pastures during the daytime and thus the flock can be handled with a fair degree of safety. But undoubtedly there are many farmers who would object to handling sheep in this way, as a small period of time is required each morning and each evening in driving the sheep from and to the folds. However, it should be remembered that if sheep are worth keeping they are worth caring for, and this method of protection is

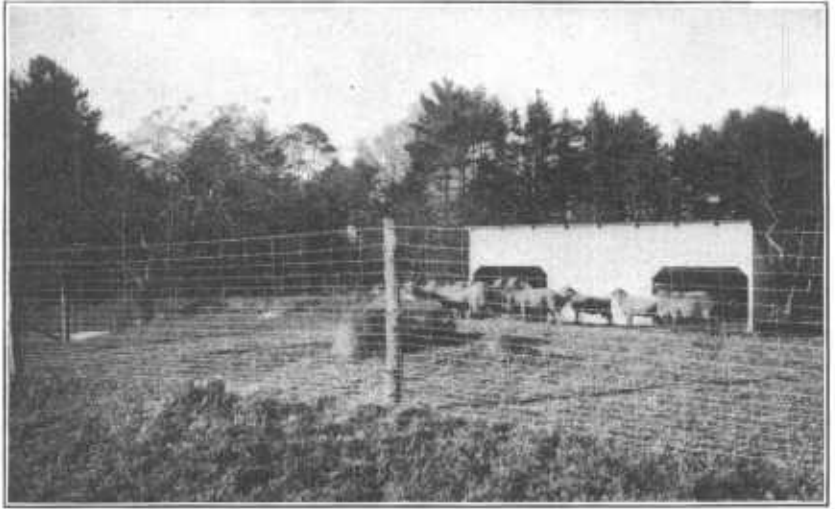


FIG. 3.—A dog-proof fenced lot in which sheep may be placed at night.

worthy of consideration for flocks not otherwise protected, and in areas where dog attacks are frequent.

Figure 3 shows a dog-proof fenced inclosure suitable for protecting sheep from dogs at night. The fence used in this case is not the same as that used by the Forest Service in fencing against coyotes. It is suggested that perhaps the coyote-proof fence would be even better suited for turning dogs than the one here shown, for dogs, as well as coyotes, are very shy of barbed wire.